

New Postal Circle

1099. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to create some new postal circles and new postal divisions during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) At present, there is no proposal to create new postal circles or new postal divisions during 1996-97 due to ban on creation of non-plan Posts.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Disturbed Area Allowance

1100. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Disturbed Area Allowance is being provided to the employees of Doordarshan and All India Radio posted in disturbed areas;

(b) if so, the amount of allowance paid during each of the last three years, State-wise, Kendra-wise separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to make any other arrangement in its place;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Stoppage of Vidarbha Express at Thane

1101. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the public or any public institutions from Thane with a request to allow the stoppage of Vidarbha Express running between Mumbai and Nagpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received including from Shri Jayant S. Deshmukh, Goverdhan Envirotech Private Limited; Shri P.S. Nagrajan, Vice President, Bhartiya Janata Party, Mumbai; Shri Datta Meghe, M.P.; Shri Mukesh Patel, MP; Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar, MP; Shri Hansraj Ahir, MP; Shri Sharad Tasare, Deputy Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; Shri Kirit Somaiya, MLA; Shri P. Dhole, MLA; etc. for stoppage of 1005/1006 Nagpur-Mumbai CST Vidarbha Express at Thane station. The same has been examined but not found operationally feasible.

Fake Railway Counters at Railway Stations

1102. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that fake Government tourist counters are functioning at the Railway Stations in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the passengers are lured by these fake tourist counter officials for making available the accommodation; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Loss Incurred by Railways

1103. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps and decisions taken by the Government to reduce or eliminate the losses on uneconomic Railway lines, indicating the details of such lines;

(b) the losses incurred on these lines during 1994-95, 1995-96 and estimated to be incurred during 1996-97; and

(c) the likely impact of these steps on the economy of these Railway lines and on the Railways as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) On the basis of the review done during 1994-95, 119 branch lines were found to be uneconomical. Since the State Governments are reluctant to agree to the closure of these lines, some steps have been taken to reduce/eliminate losses on the uneconomic lines which include closure/conversion of Stations not remunerative, into halts, running of mixed (passenger and goods) trains, economising on staff, curbing ticketless travel, introduction of rail bus service, etc.